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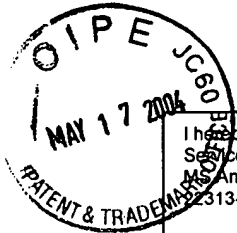
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/696,801	
	Filing Date	October 25, 2000	
	First Named Inventor	Lee A. BULLA, JR.	
	Art Unit	1631	
	Examiner Name	L. Clow	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	9	Attorney Docket Number	524412000200

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)				
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP Kate H. Murashige - 29,959
Signature	<i>Kate H. Murashige</i>
Date	May 13, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.	
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*Marian L. Christopher*  
(Marian L. Christopher)

Docket No.: 524412000200  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Lee A. BULLA, Jr., and Mehmet CANDAS

Application No.: 09/696,801

Filed: October 25, 2000

For: GENE MINING SYSTEM AND METHOD

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Lori A. Clow, Ph.D.

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office action herein, mailed 20 April 2004, time for response to which was set to expire 20 July 2004. All pending claims were rejected on formal grounds.

Applicants sincerely appreciate the withdrawal of the rejections previously made. The amendments and discussion below address the outstanding rejections. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.